

March 18, 1974

SENATOR CARPENTER: Senator do you realize that you know that within the last six months or eight months that the Nebraska Public Power Service under the guides of emergency rates has raised the rates five or six times without any hearings.

SENATOR BURBACH: I'm aware of this, because I pay the freight.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, then aren't you opposed to it?

SENATOR BURBACH: I don't know if we are opposed to setting.. If we could call this anti-trust. If this is collusion between those people who set the rate and this is what I want a determination from sometime through a public hearing rather than a few moments of debate on the floor.

SENATOR CARPENTER: It's a collusion between the lobbyists and the Nebraska Public Service, it's just that simple. And that's the thing that we are trying to prevent is a conspiracy between two people in order to rig a rate structure in order to extract from the public that which is not necessary in the general public's interest. And I'm surprised Senator Burbach that you of all people, would be opposed to something that would protect yourself, and others in like position. I'm not surprised at Senator Proud, he is not confronted with the problem except as a lawyer. You and I are confronted with the problem because of the business we might be engaged in and we are completely helpless. In order to go before any hearing within this state and get any recourse or any consideration. It's just that simple. You know it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: I'd like to ask Senator Carpenter. Senator Carpenter, will the Attorney General's appointee after this bill is now written, without Senator Proud's amendment, will this have anything to do with the workings of the Boards of Trade, the elevators and the warehouses in the State of Nebraska to force a price on us that we do not like, to take 10 20 30 cents a bushel off of the price of corn. Will we be able to investigate them.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Of course they will, and I'll give you one illustration. In my area. We grow a large crop of navy beans, and they last 12 or 18 months, the coops have been selling the beans rather than the ones who process them. This year they were under the Nebraska Public Service Cooperation. They start out charging about \$1.25 a hundred in order to process. But as the price went up, the processing charge went from a \$1.25 as I remember from \$1.50 to almost \$9.00. Now that's a giant conspiracy in my mind between the processors who have a monopoly on this type of a business in order to extract that which is not theirs because they increased the price of beans.

SENATOR KEYES: Well, Senator Carpenter, I think you are right on that, and I think this bill that I have on commodity market is probably one of the most far reaching that would come to the floor of the Legislature. And if we ever get to where we can discuss this bill here is certainly a necessity to go along with that.